

## **Meeting Summary – Meeting 9**

### **Downtown Parking Stakeholder Advisory Committee (DSAC)**



**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

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CITY OF BEND

#### **5:32 p.m. DSAC Meeting**

**Roll Call:** Sarah Jordan, Karen LeTourneau, Monte Payne, Brett Yost, Kevin English, Parry Thomas, Jeff Huey, Doug Watson, James Lewis, and Tom Fisher.

**Staff:** Carolyn Eagan, Kathy Montgomery

#### **1. Introductions/Approve meeting notes**

Meeting notes approved.

#### **2. Community Input**

None at this time.

#### **3. De-brief Council Work Session**

DeeDee, Doug, Karen, Kevin, and Carolyn presented an update to Council during a work session on Wednesday. The group met a couple of times prior to the presentation. Presentation went well and feedback was positive. Doug was pleased with absence of controversy except regarding the Mirror Pond lots and a nearby restaurant owner.

Kevin brought up an article on dynamic pricing of parking in San Francisco. Has data down to the hour. Found after a year, parking utilization has gone up and cost to those using system has gone down.

Need to educate businesses that a good parking plan can bring more customers during the day. Doug mentioned that the lots being full all the time does not help them. Overall there was buy in by 95%. Even the restaurant owner who was upset about Mirror Pond lots said was overdue.

Rick: Were there any questions that Council asked that were hard questions or were worthy of note? Free passes/progressive pricing. Kevin: Councilor Boddie said it seemed that employees were being villainized.

Sarah felt that in the future, there needs to be more restaurant food and beverage owners on committee. Kevin asked how it could be stated differently. Sarah: stress Customer First versus moving employees. Comes across as employees are the problem. Karen: cautioned to be careful of spin. Doug suggested changing the term from employees to permit holders. Rick: creating appropriate places for long term parking. Karen: daily users of parking system. Carolyn said she appreciates this feedback. She considers herself an employee and now realizes that others don't see her that way when she is talking about the parking study. Without data, we don't know the

types of employees and hours. Sarah mentioned that twice recently her employees have had to call the police non-emergency number because early morning employees didn't feel safe. Need to be sure to include safety improvements that are being made in downtown even if not part of study. Mentioning safety more upfront in document not only at end. Karen mentioned that in addition to actual safety improvements, as more people are directed to park in a certain area, there will be safety in numbers.

Carolyn mentioned that Councilor Boddie's perspective is that downtown employees are low wage workers.

Rick – overall perceptions: have they changed? Rick will go back through document and look at where have word employees based on this discussion. Right car in right spot. Kevin likes the catch phrase. Rick will mention in introduction also emphasize as a reason.

Carolyn – move safety up. Where does it fit? Rick - break apart from garage and add elsewhere. Maybe strategy 8 under 0-12 months.

Brett asked if there a safety problem. Carolyn – one incident of crime in parking garage in several years. More a perception of harm. Creating environments that are well lit. Good sidewalks. Other people around. Very little crime. Some throughout downtown but misdemeanors. Carolyn mentioned that she has three projects going on downtown regarding safety. Sarah again mentioned that female employees have been approached by males in two instances lately. Rick – use term observed rather than perceived.

Rick said there will be two safety sections. Garage stays. Add to narrative that safety improvements are underway. Also assessment of observed areas of concern. In concert with efforts currently underway. Tom – be proactive especially if there is a perception. James said that throughout whole document needs to come back to facts. Be careful not to make Bend seem unsafe especially to outsiders. Carolyn – ongoing dialogue with permit holders about parking experience. All things including safety as well as other issues.

Brett – was there a perception that we were creating a safety problem? Sarah – moving employees further away could be an issue. Worried that safety was listed so late in document. Do safety analysis before moving employees. Kevin – safe parking experience for all not just employees. For all users who may choose to park further away due to lower pricing or longer stays.

Brett - Pricing is not done without 85% occupancy. Will not kill a downtown because people are parking. Monte – was there any comments about peripheral areas? Carolyn replied there was not much. DeeDee mentioned in her presentation. Carolyn data is clear but did not come up. Rick it is strategy number 6. Carolyn has been working with Councilors.

Rick summarized that would downplay the term employee. Use permit holder. Right car in right spot, safety connectivity process. Safe for all users.

#### **4. De-brief Community Contacts**

BOTC, US Bank, Deschutes Brewery, G5, DBBA. All committed that all employees will have access to permits, other transportations, Three provided letters to Council. Carolyn will continue to do one-offs and meet with smaller businesses. Do faster, collect data more often.

Brett asked if pay-for-parking would give instantaneous data. Rick answered that technically it would not. Don't record occupancy only transaction. Would have to have install sensors to get occupancy data. Overtime will get there. Would need 120 pay station downtown. Carolyn – will use pay-by-plate which will give info. Don't need all the time, only some of the time. Do other strategies first. Doesn't want to have any stranded infrastructure. City already placed meters and took them out. Carolyn – we don't have a political environment against managing parking.

Are there any other businesses she should contact besides Bend Burger?

#### **5. Review/Discuss Draft DSAC Editorial**

Anne: DSAC editorial. Marie and Kevin working on. What is your interest? What themes? It was noted that Letter to the Editor is correct terminology not editorial. Previously there had been an article that targeted paid parking. Was a concern and reason idea of letter came up. What are thoughts now? Parry – yes. Doug prior to open house to get people to come. Kevin – mixed. Bulletin hasn't brought up in a while. Worried about creating attention. Parry concerned about waiting and being in defensive posture. James – has any other advisory committee put forth position before being blessed by Council? Carolyn can look into. She believes that she heard that these strategies are okay to take to public. Wants feedback from community on strategies. Anne – public involvement tool to share information.

Brett said he doesn't have feel for process. Carolyn said first an open house will be held. Then Council can accept parking study by resolution. She feels will be approved.

Discussion providing information that people can understand. Idea of sound bites was made: safety, parking in right place. Data driven. For all. 85% rule. Make process of finding a parking place "easier". Maybe the Bulletin is not the right vehicle. Carolyn - maybe through DBBA or Chamber. Bulletin might pick up. Narrower audience. Putting talking points together for open house.

Comments from members: Kevin – would like to hear who audience should be and what two points to emphasis. Sarah – focus on that this is a framework that is fluid. Nothing is set in stone. Guidelines. Take a step and then evaluate. Doug – hiring parking manager. Tax payer dollars. Concerned about that. James said people will look at cost as a whole. Potential sticking point. Sarah – all opportunities for people to get involved. Monte – nothing too technical, too specific. Karen – list of endorsements. Monte – needs to work so doesn't impact neighborhoods/periphery. Doug - Audience downtown stakeholders. Jeff - as broad as possible audience. High level. James – stress why important to people who don't come downtown. Tom – broad. Neighborhood

associations. Jeff – target to different groups. Have more than one version. Anne can do in outreach. Effort to find parking for everyone. Jeff - Acknowledge there are neighborhood issues.

Other thoughts: Explain who is on DSAC by representation. Stress that decisions were made based on data. Remain informational and non-defensive. Explain that there is a strain/problem on parking in certain areas at certain times. Study guided by parking professionals. Anne – who does it go to? Parry likes Carolyn's thought. More detail to DBBA, neighborhoods in outreach. It was suggested that do an informational press release instead prior to open house.

Brett asked if open house is too late. Will we need to rewrite? Anne said we are educating people. Encourage members to be there. Can incorporate public input in report, also website.

Rick said that everything discussed today can be used as talking points to Council.

## **6. Info on Open House**

May 11<sup>th</sup> at Old Stone Church or Franklin building lobby. Will send out details. Looking at 4-7 pm. Talking about themes. Document will be available. Brief presentation then can go to workstations. Data, strategies, guiding principles. Sarah suggested having a video of City Council presentation playing. Anne can do.

## **7. Next Steps**

Writing narrative to 8 page document. Approaching 90 pages. Being edited now. To Committee by May 4<sup>th</sup>. Agreed to amend Strategies to use as a communication piece. Matrix in document can be pulled out. All steps, when, cost.

## **8. Community Input**

Ken Cooper - Said good presentation. Add one thing. Ripple effect of neighborhoods. Live on Broadway across from parking lot of library. Working with Kevin. Has tried to mellow out fears.

Mike Walker said he is playing the devil's advocate. 12.5% increase. On second page of findings. Impact of special events and how to deal with them is not really addressed. Right car in right spot is a good phrase. South end actions speak louder than words. How we correct problem. He feels that not understanding impact to peripheral areas. Trying to push problem from downtown. No one representing east side. Mentioned right sizing parking lots. Not mentioned much. Also pointed to charging example of OSU Cascades.

## **9. Adjourned at 7:06 pm**